[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

There is another aspect in which the cost of production has to be looked at. The number of compositors required for composing 31,537 pages at 6½ hours a day, as fixed in the Government Press, is only 21,830. Calculating at Re. 1 per day per compositor this ought to cost Government only Rs. 21,830.

The Financial Secretary has very conveniently omitted to give the actuals under the heads of composing, reading, piece-work and temporary piece-work establishments in this budget or in the previous budgets. The budget estimate for 1097 shows that a sum of Rs. 36,000 was allotted for the permanent and temporary piece-work establishments and overtime allowance, besides Rs. 78,849 for the reading and composing establishments and supervision charges. We must also remember that there has been no reduction in the number of hands employed or cost incurred in proportion to the amount invested by Government for the purchase of labour-saving machines such as the linotype machine. This shows that the work in the Government Press is costing Government an amount several times larger than what it would cost if the work is done outside. Therefore, there is no justification for the increase in cost and the outturn is quite inadequate when the outlay and expenditure are taken into consideration. The following observation made by the *Madras Mail* is very suggestive:

"In other countries public bodies find it cheaper and more convenient to let their printing work out on contract to respectable firms, and, if this were done, the printing industry would develop to a much greater extent, to the benefit financially of the Government and of everybody else."

The time has come for a full investigation of the question from this point of view, and, I think, it will receive the earnest consideration of the Travancore Government.

With these words, I withdraw the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has made the motion; but it has not been replied to. I think he could withdraw only after hearing the other side.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: The practice in such cases seems to be that, if a member wants to withdraw, he must stand up and say so without making a speech.

PRESIDENT: The House may allow the member to withdraw his motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote of the House Demand XIX —Stationery and Printing—for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3·69 lakhs.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XX Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·52 lakh under Demand XX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—(Museum, Observatory, Photograph Department, Establishment under the Steam Boilers and Prime Movers Regulation, Census and the Revenue Test Examination).

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Motion 154.

The following motion was not made:

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

154. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,679 for the Photograph Department by Rs. 420.

PRESIDENT: I put to the vote of the House the Demand for Rs. 52,000 under XX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XXI Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 53,000 under Demand XXI—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—embracing the following departments, *viz.*, the Public Library, the Archaeological Department, the Department for the Preservation of Oriental Literature, Establishment under the Glanders and Farcy Regulation, the Co-operative Department, the Public Lecture Committee the office of the Controller of Patents and Designs and the Economic Development Board.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that motions Nos. 155 to 157 are identical?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I cannot say exactly that they are identical.

Motion 155.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

155. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,800 for the Public Library by Rs. 1,500.

Sir, it may seem rather curious that I should move for a reduction from the grant to an educational institution like the Public Library. But my excuse is that the benefits of this library are reaped only by a very small class of people and that they do not reach the masses. The books in the library are all in English and they are used by the residents of Trivandrum alone. The population of the town of Trivandrum is only 65,000 or 70,000.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that you are right in saying that the books in the Public Library are exclusively in English.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: There are very many sections of books. There are Tamil books, there are Sanskrit books and there are Malayalam books.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: May I mention that, during the last two or three years, considerable additions have been made in books, especially in the Indian languages?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Most of the books are in English. I suppose that, of the population of Trivandrum which, as I said, was about 70,000, the number of English-knowing people who actually make use of the Library is very small. From the Administration Report for 1096, we find that the number of members was 116, the number of eight-anna subscribers 55, and the

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